

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, today released the following statement on Republican Budget Chairman Paul Ryan’s proposal for Fiscal Year 2012 (FY 12), which would slash investment in Medicare, infrastructure, and education while extending irresponsible tax cuts for the wealthiest one percent of Americans.

Yesterday, Slaughter spoke on the House floor. Video of her statement is available [here](#) .

“This reckless budget would dismantle Medicare as we know it, the bedrock of affordable health care for seniors in America. And why? To pay for more tax breaks for big oil and millionaires. The proposal would shift costs to seniors by as much as \$6,000 a year, providing a voucher for seniors to fend for themselves. Think about your parents and your grandparents. Do you want them to take a voucher into the insurance market and have to purchase limited healthcare coverage? This is a sorry replacement for the peace of mind afforded by Medicare and an unnecessary gift to the insurance companies at the expense of seniors.

“We’ve heard a lot lately about sharing sacrifice, which to the majority apparently means that the ones who have the most should sacrifice the least. While slashing investments in education and transportation, programs that keep our nation economically competitive, they would make permanent the Bush-era tax cuts for the richest one percent of Americans. As we shape a sensible budget for 2012, we must craft legislation that truly shares the sacrifice, not a budget that ends Medicare while handing more tax giveaways to those who need it the least.”